

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the drawings and abstract are objected to for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the present Office Action. With respect to the drawings, Applicants amend the drawings, as set forth in the enclosed hand-corrected drawings. With respect to the abstract, Applicants amend the abstract as indicated herein.

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Fukushima (US Patent No. 6,049,524). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukushima in view of Tsukakoshi (US Patent No. 6,577,634). Finally, claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukushima in view of Couturier (US Patent No. 6,073,184).

§112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claim 4

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the present Office Action. Applicants amend claim 4, as indicated herein, and Applicants believe that this amendment obviates the Examiner's rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

§102(b) Rejections (Fukushima) - Claims 1, 3, and 5-8

Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected over Fukushima for the reasons set forth on pages 3-5 of the present Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants amend this claim, as indicated herein, and submit that Fukushima does not disclose or suggest at least, "said at least two router modules

having respective state machines associated with each of said neighbor routers,” as recited in amended claim 1. Fukushima discloses that the respective route calculation units 11A, 11B (which allegedly correspond to the claimed router modules) contain a state monitor module, however Fukushima does not disclose that the calculation units contain a different state machine for each of the respective neighbor routers. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Fukushima.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 3 and 5-8 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependency from independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 6, Applicants amend this claim, as indicated herein, and submit that Fukushima does not disclose or suggest at least that, “a stable state is a state from at least the following list: ‘2-way’, ‘Exchange’, ‘Full’, and ‘Loading’.” According to Applicant’s understanding, nowhere does Fukushima disclose these features.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 7, Applicants submit that the features of this claim are not disclosed or suggested by Fukushima, as nowhere does Fukushima even discuss a database description packet.

§103(a) Rejections (Fukushima/Tsukakoshi) - Claim 2

Claim 2 is rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 5-6 of the present Office Action.

First, Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1. Tsukakoshi does not make up for the deficiencies of Fukushima.

Further, with respect to claim 2, the Examiner acknowledges that Fukushima does not satisfy the features set forth in claim 2, however the Examiner believes that Tsukakoshi makes up for the deficiencies of Fukushima. Specifically, the Examiner states:

Fukushima does not disclose a shared memory that is shared between the router modules to hold the data relating to the states of the state machines. However, Tsukakoshi, in Patent No. 6,577,634, discloses a router with a plurality of route calculation units, which may share the network information (column 10, lines 66 to column 11, lines 13 in the Description of the Embodiments). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in Fukushima a shared memory as suggested by Tsukakoshi in order for the routing modules share the network information. This makes the routers appear as if they were not router.

In response, according to Applicants' understanding, Tsukakoshi does not disclose a shared memory in which data is stored and shared between router modules. Tsukakoshi discloses a cluster router 11 comprising numerous different routers therein, each of the enclosed routers having their own route calculation units. Nowhere does Tsukakoshi disclose a memory in which data is stored and shared between the route calculation units 20, which allegedly correspond to the claimed router modules. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over Fukushima and Tsukakoshi, either alone or in combination.

§103(a) Rejection (Fukushima/Couturier)- Claim 4

Claim 4 is rejected for the reasons set forth on page 6 of the present Office Action. Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1. Couturier does not make up for the deficiencies of Fukushima.

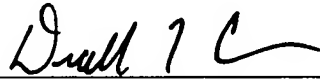
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 10/042,177

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q68009

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Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please find attached annotated Figs. 2 and 3.

Attachment: 2 Annotated Sheets (Figs. 2 and 3)